

Newburyport Tree Commission
Minutes February 20, 2014
Newburyport Police Station
4 Green Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Meeting Convened at 7:06 PM

Members present: E. Taylor (**ET**) (Chair), P Bevilacqua (Secretary) (**PB**), D. Dylewski (**DD**), P. Harrington (Vice Chair and Treasurer) (**PH**), S. Taintor (**ST**), (**BG**) Byron Getchell

Absent: H. Kelleher (**HK**), A. Lafferty (**AL**) Tree Warden and Deputy Director of the Department of Public Services, ex-officio

Others Present: J. Esche (**JE**) vendor/volunteer; E. Petty (**EP**) volunteer

Rescheduled Meeting

This meeting replaced a meeting which had been scheduled for February 13, but had to be cancelled due to weather conditions.

Report of the Secretary

The Minutes of the January 9 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved with two corrections.

Report of the Treasurer

The report of the Treasurer was reviewed and unanimously approved.

Tree Warden's Report

The Tree Warden was absent. A report was not provided.

Sub-Committee Reports

- **Spring/Fall Planting**

DD stated that trees planted included: 51 in calendar year 2012, all in FY12; 18 in calendar year 2013, 3 in FY13; and, to date 15 trees have been planted in FY14). The list will be available from the Tree Warden. **DD** has submitted FY15 budget proposals to plant trees. A substantial number of sites have been identified.

- **Green Street Planting**

DD reported that the recommendations for bids were submitted to **AL** during a meeting on January 8. **AL** has approved 13 of the 16 sites submitted. For Phase I, **DD** has spoken with the Pastor at Immaculate Conception Church who was very supportive. He

would like trees planted along Green Street as long as they are not in front of the Church itself. Bids which were originally understood to be scheduled to be opened on February 20 have not yet been advertised. It is unclear when they will be.

The time period for planting remains April 15-June 1, although it is unclear whether that goal can be met. It also remains unclear whether Chapter 90 funds will be available to supplement CPA funds. **DD** and others will pursue these possibilities in cooperation with **AL**.

- **Planting, Education and Pruning**

DD reported that the education program presented at the River Valley Charter School on February 12 was very successful. **DD**, **ST**, and **EP** made a presentation on the Asian Longhorn Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer to 96 students in 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. They described life cycles of each insect, their origins, and actions being taken to address the infestations in Mass. The presentation was a PowerPoint slide presentation, along with visual teaching tools such as real life samples of the insects, and different wood samples of how they affect the trees. They also described Host trees for each pest in Newburyport and how Host trees can be identified. Additionally they provided pencils, identification cards, and other materials to the students.

DD reminded the Commission of the April 25 Arbor Day events, including pruning. Many members had indicated that they would be able to attend. The rain date for the events is April 26.

- **Nursery**

The Nursery proposal will be discussed as part of the FY 15 budget discussions.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Commission Meeting Guidelines

The Guidelines initially approved in June of 2013 were approved unanimously for continued use. They will be reviewed in the future if needed.

Tree Evaluation Requests

DD reported that no tree evaluations had been requested since the last meeting.

Tree Commission Budgets for FY14 and FY15

The City Council and Mayor have approved the creation of a Revolving Fund. The Chair of the Commission must sign a Memorandum of Understanding along with the Tree Warden and Mayor relative to the expenditure of funds from the Revolving Account.

After substantial discussion it was agreed that **PH** will submit budget FY15 proposals to **AL** requesting City funds for various activities and projects, including planting, tree care, watering, and the Tree Nursery.

It was voted unanimously to spend up to \$4,800 in FY14 from the Revolving Fund to purchase and plant trees prior to June 30.

The Commission voted unanimously to contact appropriate City offices to determine if funds are available in FY14 to transplant trees from under power lines in order to complete the goals of the transplant project. **ET** agreed to provide the leadership for this effort.

Update on Tree Inventory

JE, a volunteer and owner of Classic Companies, was present. He is conducting the Tree Inventory for the Tree Warden. He reported that the grant supporting the project had been extended until June 30. He has completed part of the project mainly in the area bounded by High, Water, Marlborough, and Kent Streets. The probable area of Spring inventory work will be between High Street and the Merrimac River. While a 100% inventory is a goal it is unlikely to be achieved by June.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul M. Bevilacqua, Secretary

Next meeting: Thursday March 13, 2014 at 7 PM

Location: Children's Activity Room, Newburyport Public Library